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only seen a little deeper than he has seen, what he has furnished us in this volume would be more valuable. Had he put ten years more of meditation upon this book, it would have made a larger contribution to the solution of these supreme problems of religion and would have had a chance of becoming permanently useful to thinking men.

Essays in Biblical Greek.

Essays in Biblical Greek. By Edwin Hatch, M.A., D.D., Reader in Ecclesiastical History, Oxford. New York: Macmillan & Co. 8vo, pp. 293. Price, \$2.75.

These essays by a distinguished Oxford scholar are important rather in what they suggest and promise than in what they actually furnish, though the latter is by no means inconsiderable. The author himself declares that the book "is designed not so much to furnish a complete answer to the questions which it raises as to point out to students of sacred literature some of the rich fields which have not yet been adequately explored, and to offer suggestions for their exploration." It consists of the substance of the lectures delivered by him as Grinfield Lecturer on the Septuagint. The three first essays will probably be most attractive and helpful to the general scholar. The first one treats of the value and use of the Septuagint, in which the materials for the study of Biblical Greek furnished by the Septuagint are elaborately presented. As a result of this presentation the conclusion is that "the great majority of New Testament words are words which, though for the most part common to biblical and to contemporary secular Greek, express in their biblical use the conceptions of a Semitic race, and which must consequently be examined by the light of the cognate documents which form the LXX." The assertion is made that "it is a safe rule to let no word, even the simplest, in the N. T. pass unchallenged." The second essay applies the methods and principles of Essay I. in short studies of certain N. T. words. These shed great light upon the meanings of words which have hitherto been in dispute, or concerning which there has been some doubt as to the exact shade of meaning. Sometimes a new and striking turn is given to a word, as in Luke 11: 53, the verb ἀποστοματίζειν is translated, in view of certain parallel uses in post-classical Greek, "to put questions to, as to a pupil on points of theology." This discussion is full of interest to all students of N. T. Greek. A third essay subjects to a careful examination the psychological terms used in the Septuagint and Philo, with a view to their bearing on similar terms in the N. T. The writer here comes to one important and wide-reaching conclusion, viz., "that the use of such terms in St. Paul differs in essential respects from the use of them in Philo, and that consequently the endeavor to interpret Pauline by Philonean psychology falls to the ground." The remaining essays are of less general interest.

Phoenicia.

The Story of Phoenicia. By George Rawlinson, M.A., Camden Professor of Ancient History in the University of Oxford. "Story of the Nations" Series. New York: G. P. Putnam's Sons. Pp. 356. Price, \$1.50.

The land and people which form the subject of this volume are full of fascinating interest to the student of ancient history. The Phoenicians were the great navigators and explorers of antiquity. Their relations to the commerce and manufactures of ancient nations, together with their service to all succeeding generations in connection with the alphabet and written language, make their history worthy of study by all intelligent persons. They are fitly included in a series of

volumes which present in a simple, popular yet scholarly way the story of the careers of the leading nations of ancient and modern times. It is to be regretted that the sources of information regarding Phoenicia are very few and unsatisfactory. Even where the materials are more ample, they come from such writers as Herodotus, Josephus, Philo Byblius, and others, whose statements are to be received with caution and carefully compared and sifted before they can be used with any high degree of certainty. The monumental remains of this people are also very meagre. It might almost be said that more information is given concerning Tyre and Sidon by the Assyrian inscriptions than their own records supply. The statement would certainly be true of the biblical material as compared with the Phoenician remains. Professor Rawlinson has utilized all these sources, giving, perhaps, more credence to Herodotus than many would be willing to allow. He has written his book in a vivid and pictorial way which will attract and hold the attention of the reader. He brings the history of the nation down to the third century A. D. and includes a sketch of the greatest maritime exploit of the Phoenicians, the circumnavigation of Africa, as well as a clear and stirring account of the siege and capture of Tyre by Alexander the Great. The book is among the best of an excellent series.

Bible Characters.

Bible Characters. By Charles Reade, D.C.L. New York: Harpers. Pp. 106. Price, 75 cts.

A very clever series of sketches has here been given us by the late popular novelist, Charles Reade. As might be expected, he has a purpose in writing. It is this. He advances and successfully maintains the thesis that "the characters of Scripture are a marvel of the mind," "a part of Scripture truth and aids to reasonable faith in a matter where faith is a boon and disbelief a calamity." The qualities, the characteristics of the biblical narratives are such as to make the acceptance of the things they relate as true the most reasonable conclusion. This view is enforced both by close and pressing argument and by illustrative examples. Chief among the latter is a vivid outline of Nehemiah's character and work. Briefer sketches of Jonah, David and Paul follow. The style sometimes verges on flippancy but in general the interest is roused and sustained by this new telling of the old tales.

A Bible Dictionary.

Dictionary of the Holy Bible for general use in the Study of the Scriptures, with engravings, maps and tables. Revised and enlarged edition. New York: American Tract Society. 8vo, pp. 720. Price, \$2.00.

The American Tract Society has done a useful service to Bible students in issuing a revised edition of their Bible Dictionary. The book is well gotten up with clear type and good paper at a cheap price. The articles seem to be well abreast of the times and reasonably full. The attitude on disputed questions of criticism is a conservative and sensible one. While the later views are usually stated (an exception must be made in the case of the book of Isaiah), the older ones are approved. The book is a safe guide to put into the hands of young people as an aid in the study of the Scriptures.